

## Getting pumped



Mark MacKenzie (standing) spots friend Jamie Keith while working out in the exercise room at the recreation centre. The exercise room is operating on reduced hours this summer and is open from Monday to Thursday from 8 a.m. until 9 p.m., until 4:30 on Friday, and is closed on the weekends. (Photo by Jennie Richardson)

## Pilot project steers students to success

By Patricia Bow

Conestoga College is conducting a pilot project to gather information on the link between academic preparedness before college and success in basic apprenticeship programs.

Marian Mainland, special needs co-ordinator for the college, heads the early warning apprenticeship project. From a start date of October 1994, about 14 months will be needed to gather enough data for a useful report, she said.

Recommendations will be sent to college administration and OTAB (the Ontario Training and Adjustment Board), which oversees apprenticeship programs.

The project monitors the success of basic apprenticeship students who are tested for math and English skills before their programs start (the experimental groups), compared to a single control group who were not assessed until day one of their courses. Until now, it has been the norm to test these skills on day one.

The first experimental group, made up

**Identifying the need for help at an early stage is crucial to student success.**

—Marian Mainland,  
Special needs co-ordinator

of carpentry and plumbing students, were offered pre-testing in October 1994, six weeks before they were due to start their programs. Those who failed to meet the minimum Grade 10 entrance requirement were offered the chance to upgrade their skills without charge.

Students who took upgrading were tested again at the start of their programs. All had improved their grades to above the minimum requirement, according to figures supplied by Mainland.

The control group was made up of stu-

dents entering electrical, millwright, industrial woodworker and motor vehicle mechanic programs in October 1994. These students were not pretested. They were tested on day one of their programs in the usual way, and offered help to improve their skills where needed.

In March 1995, it was found that the control group achieved an overall average of 72 per cent, while the first experimental group averaged 74 per cent.

More significantly, Mainland said, stu-

**Many students with Grade 12 diplomas have skill levels two or three grades lower.**

—Tim Williams,  
Program co-ordinator

dents in the control group had a combined failure/withdrawal rate of 12 per cent, with a rate as high as 21 per cent in some programs. In the first experimental group, no students withdrew or failed.

Mainland said the results show the effectiveness of early testing as a way of diverting students toward getting the help they need well before starting college, whether that help is academic upgrading or disability assessment. Identifying the need for help at an early stage is crucial to student success, she said.

Ken Snyder, dean of trades and apprenticeship, said a 20 per cent failure rate of students in basic programs translates into \$80,000 of public money "out the window."

Mainland added that this cost does not include the loss to the employer when the apprentice has to be released a second time to take the basic program.

It also doesn't include the emotional cost. She mentioned one man who was close to suicide before upgrading sessions helped him complete his course.

Mainland said the special needs office has been getting more and more calls from apprenticeship faculty who think

their students have learning disabilities.

When these students are assessed, she said, the disability often turns out to be poor grounding in math and English.

Rick Casey, special needs advisor-counsellor, said many people who go into trades have high tactile and practical abilities and may perform well on the shop floor but have trouble learning by traditional academic methods.

About a third of the students in both the control and the experimental groups were told at some time that they might be learning-disabled, he said.

Though the final report will not be compiled until the pilot project is complete, Mainland said she hopes to offer pretesting to students as early as a year before they start their programs. The roadblock, she said, is that OTAB does not notify students of acceptance into programs until two months before the start date.

Mainland also suggested the college might consider making pretesting mandatory for all basic apprenticeship students.

Tim Williams, a program co-ordinator

**Many people have trouble learning by traditional academic methods.**

—Rick Casey,  
Special needs advisor

in electronics engineering technology, said the root of the problem lies in the teaching of math and English in the high schools. "The quality of the product has gone down," he said.

Many students with Grade 12 diplomas actually have skill levels two or three grades lower, he said, and day-one testing reveals this. Some of the failing students were at Grade 6 and 7 levels.

"The study will give us the ammunition to tell OTAB what the skill requirements will really have to be in the various programs," he said.

## "Keeping Conestoga College connected"

## This week in the news

### Longtime employee retires

Conestoga College says goodbye to 25-year veteran instructor-administrator-counsellor Bill Cleminson, who is taking a three-year leave of absence before retirement in order to assist in the setting up student services at a college in the United Arab Emirates.

For details see page 2

### OCCSPA head fears for students' future

Paul Hamilton, Ontario Community College Student Parliamentary Association president, says he fears for the future of post-secondary education under the newly elected provincial Progressive Conservatives. The PC party has pledged to reduce funding to education by \$400 million.

For details see page 3

### Sexual harassment discussed at seminar

Employees of Conestoga College taking part in the three-day Employees for Excellence in Education Conference, held at Doon from June 5-7, discussed issues relating to sexual harassment. Marg Smith, facilitator for the seminar, told participants that harassment is an issue of respect.

For details see page 6

### The writing is on the wall

Are you passionate or are you uncaring? A workaholic, maybe? It's all in the pen according to Bo Renneckendorf. The handwriting analyst showed Conestoga employees at a handwriting analysis workshop for the Employees for Excellence in Education Conference how handwriting can unlock clues to a someone's personality.

For details see page 7

### E-mail grows at Conestoga College

A full turnout for Computer Programming Analyst teacher Dave Jackson's workshop seminar on how to use electronic mail indicated the growing interest in broadcasting messages via computer. Those who attended learned the latest enhancements in the Pegasus electronic mail program.

For details see page 8

### Doon campus to be beautified

Conestoga College is on a 10-year tree planting schedule which will see about 3,000 new trees on campus in the future. The college is trying to make the campus a place people will come to see. "I think the aesthetics of a campus can have a great deal to do with people's perspective of the school," said Conestoga president John Tibbits.

For details see page 9

### Students turn old books into cash

Entrepreneurs Rahim Parpia and Ravi Bishun, both business students at Conestoga, are turning old textbooks into money in a new venture called Textagain. Their service buys and sells new and used textbooks on consignment.

For detail see page 10

### In Dublin's fair city

Anna C. Done reviews Albert Finney's latest film, *A Man of No Importance*, set in Dublin, Ireland, in the '60s. According to Done, this film is a charming, entertaining account of a man who rises above his ordinary life by immersing himself in the writings of Oscar Wilde. Finney is joined by a supporting cast of British and Irish actors.

For details see page 12

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## CAMPUS NEWS

News Editor: Linda Orsola Nagy 748-5366

## News Briefs

## DSA to hold used book sale

- The DSA is holding a used book sale on Aug. 28-31 in the student lounge. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily. Books to be sold may be dropped off at the DSA office, currently located off the main cafeteria at Doon campus. All books must be received by Aug. 24.

## College honors trade students

- Conestoga College's school of trades and apprenticeship is holding an awards ceremony Thursday, June 22 at the Guelph campus. A barbecue will be held at 6 p.m. for those in attendance, followed by the dean's remarks at 7 p.m. Presentation of the awards will take place at 7:15 p.m. For information contact Jennifer Blackie at 824-9390, extension 135.

## Colleagues bid farewell to co-worker

- On Wednesday, June 28, faculty and staff will get together for a farewell event for college staff member Bill Cleminson. Cleminson is leaving Conestoga for a three-year term in the United Arab Emirates before retirement. The event will take place in the D-wing faculty and staff lounge from 3 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., with a presentation at 4 p.m.

## Memorial fund created

- The Bob Seager Memorial Fund is being initiated by friends and colleagues of the Conestoga teacher who died in May. Seager was a teacher and strong believer in the school's access programs. The award will recognize the student or students in the access programs who plan to further their education. Recipients will also demonstrate qualities such as class leadership and a contribution to college life. Financial need will also be a consideration.

## Conestoga recognizes employees

- Conestoga College is developing a recognition program for employees who make a special contribution to the college. The plan was brought forth at the college's board of governors meeting May 29.

## CORRECTIONS

In the June 12 issue of Spoke, a news brief incorrectly identified the new Doon Student Association administrative assistant. Her name is Danielle Mueller. Spoke regrets the error.

## Former Conestoga student hired as DSA administrative assistant

By Kim Breese

The DSA has hired a former Conestoga College business management student to fill the permanent part-time position of administrative assistant.

Danielle Mueller was hired because the DSA executive liked her answers to interview questions and thought she would work well with the rest of the DSA members, said DSA president Dawn Mittelholtz. Executive members also felt that students would be comfortable with Mueller as a receptionist.

Mueller's Conestoga background was not a factor in the hiring decision, said Mittelholtz.

"It was one of those things that you didn't go out looking for, but the fact that it was there was great," she said.

Mueller, who started work on June 5, was one of about 15 applicants interviewed by the DSA executive from the approximately 150 people who applied for the position. She said she did not know any members of the DSA and only found out about the position from an ad in the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. After mailing in her resume, she was called in for two interviews and hired within a week.

Mueller left Conestoga about three years ago, a few months before graduation, because she ran out of funds. However, she said her new job is in the field she was studying and she is happy to return to the college environment.

"I am thrilled to be back here," she said. "I think there are a lot of op-



Danielle Mueller, the new DSA administrative assistant, is settling into her job. (Photo by Kim Breese)

portunities here."

In an interview during the second day on the job — and just after her first executive meeting at which she takes the minutes — Mueller said she has a lot of reading to do to about the issues and policies the DSA is involved in.

But, she added, "I got a little bit of a taste for it today. It (the position) sounds like something I'll really enjoy."

She said her other duties include taking the minutes at the college's board of directors meetings, typing reports, looking after the campus photocopiers and answering questions on the phone and in the office.

Mueller will be in the office Monday to Thursday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. She also has another part-time job at Home Depot in Cambridge,

which she said she intends to keep for the time being.

In her spare time, Mueller, who lives in Kitchener, enjoys bike riding, camping, canoeing and hiking.

A former dancer who took tap, jazz and ballet, she spent a season dancing at Canada's Wonderland. "That's my big claim to fame," she smiled.

The 25-year-old Mueller said she would like to get back into dancing, but has trouble finding the level of competition she is accustomed to at her age.

For now she will stay busy at her new job.

Mueller is working in the DSA office by the main cafeteria until the office is moved later this summer. She said she is looking forward to meeting everyone.

Longtime employee retires  
Counsellor knew 'how to balance fun with being serious'

By Leanne Moses

Like a crazy geometry lesson, Bill Cleminson's career has come full circle.

In 1970, he joined a fledgling Conestoga College and began shaping many programs and student services. And 25 years later, he is about to "retire" and begin again on another continent when he goes to the United Arab Emirates to assist a new college in setting up student services.

Cleminson began his career as a faculty member in the Applied Arts department. At the request of Donna McKenna, who was then the co-ordinator of early childhood education (ECE) and is currently the chair of child studies, Cleminson began teaching in ECE.

McKenna said she enjoyed teaching with Cleminson as much as anyone because he is "kind, caring, and warm" and knows how to balance having fun with being serious.

She recalls the April Fool's Day when she came in and found her office empty after he and a few cohorts had spent a Sunday hiding everything. The college was a much different place — smaller, more closely knit, McKenna said.

But Cleminson was also the victim of a few jokes. Like the time his office door was taped shut while he was interviewing a student. Or the

time he came out on a cold, snowy day and couldn't get into his car because it was filled with balloons. And the numerous Fridays his briefcase was filled with rice or other objects.

A former student and longtime friend, Myrna Nicholas, said Cleminson is a good target because he is too even-keeled to offend.

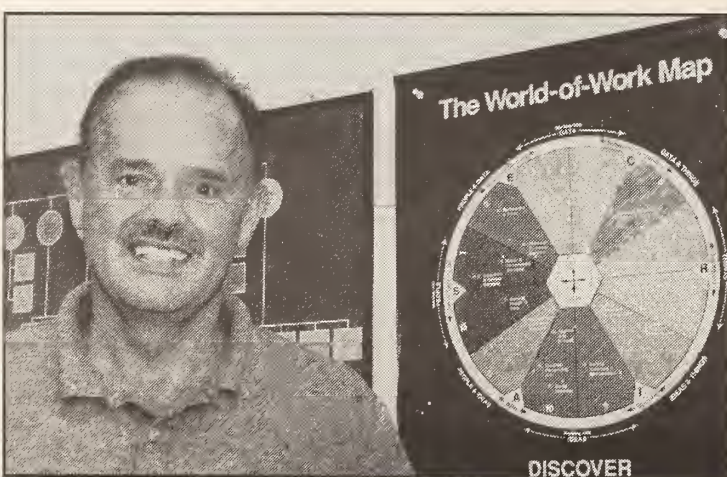
"As a teacher, he was patient and fair," said Nicholas, now a clerk in student services. "He watches people — their carriage and everything — and if he thinks someone has a problem, he checks it out."

In 1977, he joined student services as a counsellor, and became counselling co-ordinator in 1981, a change that allowed him to exercise what Nicholas describes as "acute people skills."

Then, in October 1984, his career took a 90-degree turn when he joined administration, first as associate director of student services, later as director, and then as head of student development and community relations in 1990.

Cleminson said administration was never an aspiration, but something he agreed to do because he was asked and because it was needed at the time.

But his administrative role offered him an opportunity to make many contributions to the college. Among the accomplishments of



Admissions counsellor Bill Cleminson is retiring after 25 years with Conestoga College. (Photo by Leanne Moses)

which he is most proud, he cited his involvement with the student rights and responsibilities statement, re-writing the appeals procedures, centralizing admissions and testing procedures and setting up the college emergency fund.

"I believe you lead by serving others," Cleminson said.

One of the many ways Cleminson found to serve others was by his contribution to students with special needs. He served on the first provincial board which set special needs guidelines.

Rick Casey, special needs counsellor, has worked with Cleminson for 10 years. He said Cleminson

was a pioneer in the area of student and special needs, due in part to his clear thinking and compassionate approach.

"He is the type of person you choose to work for, not just because he supports you, but because he embraces what you do."

Peggy Roth administers pre-admission testing and has worked with Cleminson for almost 20 years. She calls him a "great team player — he even does the filing if I can't get to it."

"He's the kind of guy who will help out where needed."

"When my husband was very ill, he was at the hospital, bringing in

meals," said Nicholas.

And when colleague Al Logan was dying of cancer, Cleminson organized people to assist the family in staying with the sick man around the clock.

In 1991, he returned to counselling where he had the opportunity to work with people again.

"I've been here so long, I'm starting to counsel children of former students," he said with a laugh.

But he finds the position rewarding because he said many of the people who he sees are working hard to make an important decision, and he feels he can make a difference.

And his colleagues and friends at the college agree he has made a difference. Judy Hart, special needs co-ordinator, said the college will lose a special individual.

But Conestoga's loss will be the United Emirates' gain.

Cleminson is taking a three-year leave of absence before his retirement to work in this small country adjacent to Saudi Arabia to help a new college establish student services.

As the circle closes, Cleminson will be doing what he does best — help students.

"Instead of ending my career with a dot, dot, dot, I am ending it with an exclamation point," said Cleminson.



## CAMPUS NEWS

## PC win has some worried

By Anna C. Done

The Progressive Conservative (PC) sweep of the province on June 8 has some people in Ontario worried, including Paul Hamilton, president of the Ontario Community College Students' Parliamentary Association.

"This election means that there are going to be a lot of changes for students — unfortunately they are mostly negative," said Hamilton during a telephone interview.

Hamilton said if premier-elect Mike Harris and his majority PC government follow through with the changes outlined in the publication *The Common Sense Revolution*, problems of accessibility will be created. "In the near future, not everyone who qualifies to go to college will be able to afford it," Hamilton said.

According to ideas outlined in the *The Common Sense Revolution* handbook, Harris pledges to reduce education spending by \$400 million and make universities and colleges responsible for making up the difference by "streamlining their bureaucracies and operating systems."

Harris and the PC party also plan to deregulate tuition over a two-year period, so that rather than the province setting tuition, the individual school would set it.

Hamilton said he fears for the future of Ontario under a government that makes education more exclusive. "The situation in Ontario could be that only the rich will be able to afford post-secondary edu-

cation," he said.

The effects of higher tuition and cuts in education will affect Ontario as a whole, Hamilton said, because the province needs educated people for economic growth. "With problems of accessibility to education also comes the problem of an eroding tax base. Ontario will not experience economic recovery without an educated workforce."

Hamilton said another stumbling block to economic recovery for Ontario could occur if colleges and universities are allowed to set their own tuition rates. "Many students would have to go to other provinces with lower tuition to study. This type of situation would also create further pressure on the education system in Ontario as people choose to spend their education dollars elsewhere."

Hamilton said the government of Ontario must recognize that education is an investment in the future and that money spent on education benefits the province. "Education is the key to economic recovery. How is Ontario going to be competitive in the emerging global economy without a solid, accessible education system?" he asked.

Kevin Mullan, vice-president of finance and administrative operations at Conestoga College, said in a telephone interview he believed that any predictions of doom and gloom for education in Ontario are premature.

"Until the new government actually comes out with a budget, no one knows what is going to happen," Mullan said. "Government

funding of education is going to become a scarce commodity," he said. "But it was inevitable that tuition was going to increase, no matter what party won the election."

"Nothing that the PCs proposed before the election is a surprise," Mullan said. "At Conestoga College, dealing with cuts in funding by reducing costs has been part of our strategic planning for the last five years."

While Mullan admitted that large tuition increases may create questions of accessibility to education in Ontario, he said tuition is only a small portion of the total cost of education.

Mullan said he doesn't believe deregulation of tuition is going to lead to Ontario students flocking elsewhere.

"Ontario is the biggest bargain in the Western Hemisphere as far as education is concerned," he said. "I would challenge people to find somewhere more affordable."

Mullan said if the changes the PC proposed before the election come into effect, the quality of education will not be affected. "There may be fewer seats for students though," he said.

Mullan said because of Conestoga's practice of finding alternative methods of funding capital expenditure projects such as the new business wing, it may find after the next budget that it is better prepared financially than other colleges. "Depending on the percentages, we may be in a better situation, or a less worse one," Mullan said.

## Laying pipe



Student Dieter Plagenz demonstrates how to manually bend pipe. Plagenz is taking part in the practical segment of a course given at the Detweiler Centre. (Photo by Linda Orsola Nagy)

## Massive hikes 'pure speculation'

### Conestoga president wary of tuition hike predictions

By Anna C. Done

Predictions of massive tuition hikes following the Progressive Conservative victory in the June 8 provincial elections are "pure speculation," said Conestoga College president John Tibbits.

Tibbits said recent conversations he has had with Mike Harris indicated the new premier has not come up with a definitive plan on where cutbacks in education spending are going to be targeted.

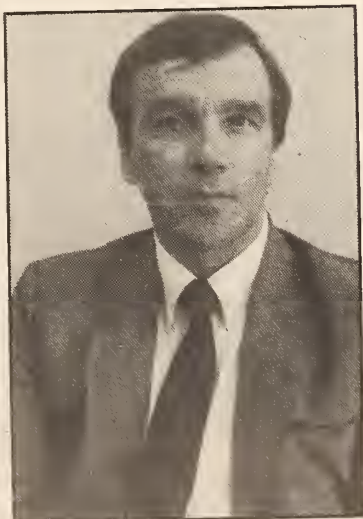
Tibbits said educators have indicated to Harris that the priority of the government should be ensuring affordable and accessible post-secondary education.

"I am not convinced that the only way to deal with education spending cutbacks is through massive tuition hikes," Tibbits said. "There are areas in the Ministry of Education that could be looked at first."

Although Harris and the new government are clear on what they want to achieve — namely deficit reduction — Tibbits said he believes they are open to suggestions on how best to accomplish these objectives.

"A lot of things are said before an election, but the new government will be consulting many different sources before coming up with a budget."

Tibbits said that in addition to restructuring the Ministry of Educa-



John Tibbits says massive tuition hikes are pure speculation. (Photo by Nicole Bardeau)

tion, the new government will probably use rationalization in order to streamline the education system.

"What that means is if there are 23 colleges offering nursing programs in Ontario, the government may decide that there should be only 10," Tibbits said many programs will come under review in this manner.

"There's no need to panic," Tibbits said. "We will have a much clearer idea of what lies ahead once the ministry is assembled and a budget is issued, probably later this fall."

## Convocation right on schedule

By Mark Waddell

Conestoga's 27th convocation ceremonies are on schedule and should run smoothly, according to John Sawicki, manager of Conestoga's public relations department.

"Everything is going according to plan," said Sawicki. The ceremonies are to be held June 23 and 24 at the Conestoga recreation centre.

The recreation centre will seat up to about 1,500 people for the ceremonies, however, Sawicki said it's not likely that a convocation ceremony will have this many attending. He said allowing more people would violate fire marshal restrictions.

Sawicki said. "I can't see any problems during any of the ceremonies." He said families and guests from other colleges, universities, and high schools have spoken highly of Conestoga's convocation ceremonies.

Conestoga has four convocation ceremonies planned for this year, one more than previous years. An increase in programs has meant an increase in enrolment which will mean an increase in graduates, said Sawicki.

Sawicki said on Friday, June 23 at noon, 280 students will graduate from the applied arts programs. Later that day at 4 p.m., 158 students from the school of

access and preparatory studies and health sciences will graduate.

On Saturday, June 24 at 10 a.m., 310 students will graduate from the training and development, trades and apprenticeship, and engineering technology programs.

At 2 p.m., 304 students will graduate from the school of business and continuing education programs.

According to a handout from Sawicki, Conestoga will also present its four most prestigious awards at the convocation ceremonies. The Governor General's Academic Medal will be presented to the graduating student with the highest academic standing.

The James W. Church Achievement Award for academic excellence and public service will be presented.

The Mastercraft Award for outstanding student achievement in a program-related technical project and the Aubrey Hagar Award, acknowledging teaching excellence will also be presented.

Sawicki said he did not know when the awards would be handed out because winners have not yet been selected. "All the awards could be handed out in one day."

The ceremonies will feature a guest speaker for each ceremony.

Joan Fisk, president of Tiger

Brand Knitting of Cambridge, will speak at the noon ceremony. She will be recognized for business achievement, leadership and community involvement.

Don Robertson, who is retiring this month from his duties as executive director of Cambridge Memorial Hospital, will speak Friday at 4 p.m. He will also be recognized by Conestoga for his leadership and public service in health care administration.

Don Haycock, principal of the Waterloo environmental engineering firm, Conestoga Rovers and Associates, will speak on Saturday at 10 a.m. and will be recognized for leadership and professional excellence in environmental engineering.

David Crane, the Toronto Star's economics editor, will speak Saturday at 2 p.m. and will be recognized for outstanding achievements and public service in business, economics and journalism.

Conestoga's convocation ceremonies cost approximately \$40,000 — the money coming from the graduation fee from student tuition. "The amount (cost to hold ceremonies) varies from year to year."

Another expense for the ceremonies covered by the graduation fee are caps and gowns, which are rented from Wilfrid Laurier University.



# OutSPOKEn Opinions



**"Keeping Conestoga College connected"**

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Advertisers in SPOKE are not endorsed by the DSA unless their advertisements contain the DSA logo. SPOKE shall not be liable for any damages arising out of errors in advertising beyond the amount paid for the space.

Unsolicited submissions must be sent to the editor at the above address by 9:30 a.m. Monday. Submissions are subject to acceptance or rejection and should be clearly written or typed; a WordPerfect 5.0 file would be helpful. Submissions must not contain any libellous statements and may be accompanied by an illustration (such as a photograph).



**Communications at Conestoga College**

*Just A Thought...*



**By Don Ross**

## Earth to bureaucratic zone

Have you ever had the guts to try to acquire information from a government office through the telephone?

For most ministry offices there is usually a long distance number, a number for local inquiries, or a 1-800 number. After hours of busy signals, in some far-off building that is away on an extended coffee break, a phone rings.

Now a recorded message instructs you to press the first of a series of information yielding numbers which are supposed to run the gamut of all the possible inquiries you could have. You can almost here the phone giggle. You have now entered the bureaucratic zone, an area as unnavigable as certain sections of the Colorado River.

Which brings to mind an important philosophical argument. If a phone rings in a government office, does it make a noise?

I suppose this will be one of those questions that baffle mankind for years, like the question: Is it farther to Toronto than by bus?

It is a good thing the operators that man the phones at 911 do not read the same procedures manual. "Hello, thank you for dialling 911 emergency services. If you require a suicide prevention counsellor, press 1; if you require police assistance, press 2; if you require an ambulance, press 3. Beep. For heart and stroke victims, press 1; for drug-related problems, press 2; for choking victims, press 3; for open

wounds, 4. Beep. For throat wounds, press 1; for head wounds, press 2; for sucking chest wounds, press 3. Beep. For sucking chest wounds from a sharp instrument, press 1; for sucking chest wounds from a dull instrument, press 2; for sucking chest wounds from a gunshot, press 3. Beep. For the county coroner's office, press 1."

I'm not much for answering machines. I prefer the real person, who informs you in a pious voice that you've been a fool for dialling this number and the person you want is at ext. #346.

And at that extension you're told to try ext. #652. Tinker to Evers to Chance, or Gonzalez to Alomar to Olerud.

What is your choice - voice mail jail, or department tag? Either way, the phones keep issuing busy signals, the coffee breaks continue and the uninformed remain so.

Maybe they want to answer the phones and give you all the information you desire in one short step, but they can't. Maybe it's that they are just trying to stretch our tax dollars by working shorter hours without pay. If you believe this, I'm worried about you.

I'm going to end this here, as I'm redialling that ministry number. Off to the side stands Rod Serling, who says, "Submitted for your examination one Don Ross, futilely attempting to withdraw information from ..... the bureaucratic zone."

*Guest Columnist*



**By Dawn Mittelholtz**  
DSA president

## DSA calls its decision responsible

We are writing in response to the article in the June 12 issue of Spoke, "DSA opts out of Provincial Student Association." Paul Hamilton, president of OCCSPA/APECCO, was quoted as referring to the Doon Student Association's decision to decline our membership renewal as "irresponsible."

Our decision was very responsible, with each executive weighing every option before voting. All of our concerns were legitimate and researched. The cost per student was not justified by what OCCSPA/APECCO had accomplished for Conestoga students in the two years in which we were members. In their current budget, 65 per cent of their operating expenses are allotted to salaries and there are no direct expenses set aside to cover their mandate.

OCCSPA/APECCO says in their mandate that they are lobbying the government and represent Ontario colleges to Parliament.

In the comparison budget we received, 1.8 per cent of expenses (\$800) were spent on the Vote Education Campaign in the 1994-95 year. In comparison, the DSA spent \$750 on our campaign in 1993-94. In OCCSPA/APECCO's 1995-96 year, there is no money set aside for the education campaign. The reason for this, according to OCCSPA/APECCO, was that they felt this kind of issue would be best handled by the colleges individually.

In contrast, a further look at the budget reveals that they have plenty of funds for networking and conferences. So tell us, who is irresponsible?

*Conestoga Corner*



**By Kelly Spencer**

## Friendships shape college life

They're all around us. And in the eyes of others, you are likely one too. UFO enthusiasts might argue they are the prowling aliens who mingle with humans every day here on earth. Psychoanalysts may say a select few of them make up the ratio of raving lunatics who hide beneath a low-key, but personable image.

But for the most part, they are the people who add an extra something to each day of our lives without much effort at all.

It is important we acknowledge to ourselves and others that it is not only the people closest to us who add sparkle to our everyday routine.

In fact, it is the people who we barely know at all who we will find ourselves missing the most once we leave them behind and tackle the next giant step in life.

The transformation from one sector of life to another always seems to bring about these bouts of realization in myself, and many others, I'm sure. I know my fellow classmates are also struggling to come to terms with our fast-approaching graduation day, and the casual contacts which will fade once we stroll through the halls of Conestoga College for the last time.

On our way out of the school just the other day, my friend and I met up with one of our "casual acquaintances." He was wild with excitement as he described the graduation bash his fellow classmates had thrown over the weekend. Beaming with delight, he also confided he was set to begin a new job on the following Monday — a beacon of hope for two upcoming grads. Without much thought, we wished him well in his future endeavors and continued on our way.

After a few minutes, my friend turned to me suddenly and said, "You know, I'll probably never see that guy ever again."

Stupefied by such an obvious, yet obscure and unsettling thought, I must have bore an uncanny resemblance to the likes of Butthead when I muttered, "Yeah," in reply.

It baffles me how much the human brain can take for granted. Just think of all the people buzzing around Conestoga College who you will never see again once you close your grip on that diploma.

With close friends and family, we always have a connection which is defined enough to establish a path for contact. Even if you don't have the desire to keep in touch, you always have the base to do so if one day you decide to.

But casual contacts put us in a bind. If you stop to consider how many there are, you will soon discover there are too many to count. Yet, when the time comes to part with them, casual acquaintances seem to vividly illustrate the memories we hold of the common ground.

These are the people who add color to our daily rituals. Whether they are students, faculty, or administrative staff, there are plenty of them around campus. Their names and faces may be hazy right now. But once the graduation jitters get under your skin, you'll be surprised how much they suddenly come to life.



## TAKING SIDES

# Are convocation ceremonies a waste of time and money?

### Convocation only an outdated ritual

By Kim Breese



Centuries, even decades ago, when higher learning was available only to a fortunate few, when many years of rigid and demanding study were rewarded with a diploma and letters which guaranteed students lifelong employment (provided they conformed to the intellectual standards of the day), convocation was a ceremony of great symbolic and practical importance for the graduates.

This year, with about 90,000 students expected to graduate from post-secondary institutions in Ontario alone, convocation ceremonies have become little more than a meaningless vestige of an ancient ritual, during which graduates receive smiling photographs of themselves in strange costumes, and pretty pieces of paper that guarantee them absolutely nothing in the workplace.

Conestoga's 1995 convocation ceremony will provide 2,800 graduates — half of whom will probably not show up, according to figures from John Sawicki, manager of public affairs — with far less than their 15 minutes of fame, a nice diploma, memories of what is supposedly an important day and a bill of more than \$40,000. That cost is paid for entirely by the students through an extra graduation fee tacked on their tuition costs.

Is this bit of annual ritual really necessary?

Let's be realistic. Because of the lack of social interaction between programs and departments in a college setting, most of the graduates know few, if any, of the other graduating students except those in their classes. Proud parents and friends, dressed uncomfortably and packed into stiff chairs squeezed among strangers, have no real interest in anyone except that one special face lost somewhere in the crowd. The ceremony is often long and, for the most part, boring.

Convocation is too big, too unwieldy and too expensive.

I think it would be much more practical and meaningful if diplomas were handed out at individual program awards nights, which most of the departments hold anyway. Instead of honoring a few, those banquets could recognize and award diplomas to all the students who studied and sweated and worked together towards common goals. All would appreciate what the others went through, and the whole affair would be more intimate and meaningful for the participants.

The thousands of dollars saved by cancelling convocation could be used for more practical purposes, such as funding for a women's centre, setting up a better career placement centre, allotting scholarships and bursaries to needy students, or providing a more extensive alumni association which could keep graduates in closer touch with one another.

In this day and age, graduation cannot and does not symbolize the end of education. Why usher graduates out with such expensive, unneeded and meaningless ritual, when chances are many will be back before long anyway?

## campus comments

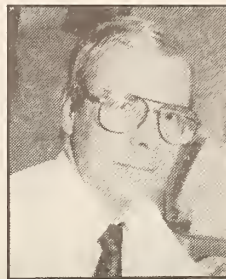


"Convocation is the cream on the cake. I'd be disappointed if I couldn't attend mine."

**Tim Warris**  
*Numerical control machine tool setter-operator*

"No. It's the one big chance we have to celebrate our students' accomplishments as a community."

**John Sawicki**  
*Manager, Public relations*



"No. You get to celebrate that sense of pride and share it with everybody."

**Darlene Lavigne**  
*Information services employee*

"Definitely not. After all we've put into our program, we deserve the recognition."

**Steve Huizinga**  
*Woodworking technology*



"After three years bettering yourself at college, you deserve to celebrate in a formal ceremony."

**Tyler McPherson**  
*Woodworking technology*

"This is one of the proudest moments in students' lives, when their peers and society are there to reward them."

**Harry Stavrou**  
*Law and security faculty*



### Ceremony's value cannot be measured



By Patricia Bow

On June 22 and 23, about 2,800 students will graduate from Conestoga. About half of those will attend convocation, according to John Sawicki, manager of public affairs for the college.

Many of the 1,400 who won't be there will have left the area. Others will have jobs they can't leave. But some, like a recent grad I know, simply won't bother.

Cy N. Jones (the N is for Nick) says he'll be happy to get his diploma in the mail. He says convocation is a waste of time. I say he's missing something — in more ways than one.

Cy tells me the sheer cost boggles his mind. Four huge gatherings with live musicians, thousands of glossy program booklets and all those support workers getting overtime pay, just to tell a mob of students what they already know.

Not only that, he says, the whole idea is out of date. Those gowns are a throwback to the middle ages, and so are those useless, gaudy red ribbons they drape over your shoulder.

The piece of paper you get is meaningless, too, Cy says. If your marks are in the college computer, that's all you need to know.

Does a ceremony make your time at college more real? (Cy's on a roll now.) All those months or years of late nights, tight deadlines, struggles for computer time, of endless head-bashing against the wall of knowledge — does all that really need to be validated by some bastardized ritual?

Yes, Cy. It does. Rituals and ceremonies do us good in ways that can't be measured. Baptisms, bar mitzvahs, weddings, funerals — and convocations — set landmarks in our lives. They help us celebrate the important times — the times we stop, look backwards and forwards, perhaps understand ourselves a little better.

Ceremonies are usually group events. Sharing our achievements with our community makes sense, because none of us lives in a vacuum. All that head-bashing was done with fellow-sufferers: our classmates and instructors. And the skills we learned will take us into still other communities of work and learning.

And, Cy, there's one other community we join when we wear those gowns and liripipes (the red ribbons), and that's the community of time.

For a thousand years students have been doing what some of us will be doing this month: waiting for the moment when the top pedagogue would hand them that piece of paper or parchment that would show the world they'd completed their studies. It may seem a long way from 9th century Salerno and 12th century Oxford to the rec centre at Doon campus, but the link is real and direct. I'll bet they had graduation parties back then, too.

No, Cy, getting a printout in the mail just wouldn't be the same. I'm going to attend my convocation. And when I cross the stage to take my diploma — with my family, friends and teachers watching — I'll be as proud as I've ever been.

# YES

Do you have any topical questions you want straight-forward answers to? Send them to the editor or staff in Room 4B15, or call SPOKE at 748-5366.

# NO



# CONESTOGA LIFE

Lifestyles Editor: Don Ross 748-5366

'The issue is respect'

## Faculty and staff discuss sexual harassment

By Kelly Spencer

Exactly what sort of behavior constitutes sexual harassment? Who defines the limits, and how does it affect people once the limits are crossed? Are there any policies in place within the college, and do they actually resolve the problem?

Participants in a seminar concerning harassment and discrimination, part of the Employees for Excellence in Education Conference, discussed these issues on June 6 at Doon Campus under the direction of Marg Smith, employment equity co-ordinator for Conestoga College.

"The issue is respect," Smith explained to the female participants. "What may have been considered acceptable 10 or 15 years ago, is not acceptable now," she said.

Although much of the covered material applied to the same principles of other forms of harassment and discrimination, said Smith, the focus of the session was on subtle sexual harassment.

Of the two kinds of sexual harassment, subtle forms are most commonly found in the type

known as the "hostile environment." This is where verbal or non-verbal behavior in the workplace:

focuses on the sexuality of another person, or occurs specifically because of that person's gender; is unwanted and unwelcome; is severe enough to affect the person's work environment.

Hostile environments are created through uninvited and unwanted jokes and teasing, comments about

body parts or sex life and by suggestive pictures, posters, calendars and cartoons, said Smith.

Assault and rape, leering stares or gestures, excessive attention, repeated requests for dates and touching such as pats, pinches, hugs and brushes also create a hostile environment, she said.

The other kind of sexual harassment, known as "quid pro quo" involves situations in which decisions or expectations are based on

an employee's (or student's) willingness to grant or deny sexual favors.

Smith said although sexual harassment is more often directed at women, men can also be victims. Likewise, she said, women can harass women and men can harass men.

The Protection of Human Rights Policy of Conestoga College runs in accordance with the Ontario Human Rights Code "to ensure

that a harassment-free and discrimination-free environment exists at Conestoga College.

The policy runs on a zero tolerance, said Smith, meaning a one-time occurrence activates the procedures outlined in the policy.

Most situations are resolved in the first stage of proceedings, by filing an informal complaint. However, if the situation persists, a formal complaint can be filed. The third stage is a formal investigation, said Smith.

When harassment does occur, said Smith, "whoever it's happening to must clearly express their discomfort, because if they haven't and they haven't, they don't really have a leg to stand on.

Smith explained people are not aware of how something they have said can cause damage to others.

It is important that people speak their minds when something has offended them.

"Some people will speak their minds, and some will not," she said. "Some generations were taught to always be 'nice'. But we can really distort the truth sometimes by being 'nice,'" she said.

### Sexual harassment: Some facts

A video entitled Subtle Sexual Harassment, shown at the seminar, says discrimination and harassment, sexual or otherwise, have devastating effects on victims. People say they feel violated and powerless in its grip. Devastated. Frightened. Intimidated. De-meared. Vulnerable. Angry.

It is crucial for victims of harassment and discrimination to stand up for themselves. It is also important for us to understand why many don't.

Why victims do not speak out:  
Fear of losing job opportunities

Fear of rejection by co-workers  
Fear of being labelled a trouble-maker

Fear of not being considered a team player

Fear of being labelled as someone without a sense of humor

Fear of being labelled oversensitive or mentally unstable

Fear of not being believed

Fear of being wrong

If you feel you are in a situation where you are being harassed, you should seek the following measures:

Don't deny it. Harassment

doesn't stop by itself.

Carefully document the dates, times, locations, witnesses and details of all incidents.

Students can consult a campus counsellor in Student Services, or seek assistance from Health Services.

Students can also contact the equity co-ordinator at 748-5366. Employees and students may contact the equity consultant for confidential advice, counselling, and information.

Information source: equity co-ordinator Marg Smith.

### 390 Conestoga employees attend June conference

By Nancy Usjak

Doing more with more was the theme at the opening ceremony for the 1995 Employees for Excellence Conference held at the Doon campus cafeteria June 5.

Grant McGregor, the dean of the school of business, welcomed about 390 Conestoga employees to the three-day conference.

"You're doing more with more — more people are involved," he said. About 65 people were involved in planning the annual conference.

"Let the games begin," he said. Jane MacDonald, co-organizer of the conference, also welcomed

the employees and thanked Lyn Logan for decorating the cafeteria with conference slogans. "We have made this cafeteria into something," she said.

She then thanked organizer Janet Zilio. "She has done the bulk of the work,"

She then thanked Rita Campionotto, who "helped out tremendously."

The opening meeting ended with employees Brian Walters and Marg Smith on acoustic guitars. They led in a sing-along of InfoRoad, Take Me Home, sung to the tune of country-western singing star John Denver's Rocky Mountain High.



Maureen Dubic, health-sciences teacher at Conestoga College, conducted the three-hour seminar on transcultural practices June 7 at Doon campus. Being aware of the cultural diversity present in the classroom was the focus of the seminar. (Photo by Don Ross)

### Faculty learns not to point or make OK sign

By Don Ross

The OK sign made with the thumb and forefinger is considered a sexual insult in Greece. Pointing or beckoning to an Arabian is a show of a complete lack of respect.

These are a couple of the cultural idiosyncrasies brought to the attention of college faculty members at a seminar discussing transcultural practices, June 7 at Conestoga College.

According to the written definition, transcultural refers to the dynamic potential of cultural diversity. It presents the possibility of exchange and change among ethnocultural groups. "Transcultural is a term preferred by writers, while crosscultural is the term preferred by academics," Maureen Dubic, health sciences teacher and facilitator of the seminar said.

It is important for teachers to be aware that there are many cultural differences and practices existing

in a classroom, Dubic said.

"Some of our regular daily practices may be offensive to someone from other cultural backgrounds," she said. "We should be aware that what we consider harmless may be offensive to someone else."

As an example, she said, merely showing the soles of your feet in Thailand is a severe insult. "The bottom of the shoe is considered the lowest part of the body and to display that to someone indicates that is what you think of them. There was a singer in Thailand who shot someone in the audience because they had crossed their legs exposing the bottom of their feet."

Dubic said much can be learned about a race from what their culture allows in the form of gifts.

To give an Asian something white would be depressing to them. White is a symbol of death because it is a color associated with winter, she said.

To give a East Indian something

sharp, such as a knife, indicates you wish to sever the relationship. The only time something sharp is acceptable to them as a gift is when a coin or a cork is included, Dubic said.

"For anyone with Vietnamese students, tell them not to bring a bottle of wine to a job interviewer. This is a common gift in Vietnam," a faculty member in attendance added.

Some in attendance shared their experiences with other cultures.

One person said that in Egypt it is improper for a man to walk hand-in-hand with a woman, but quite acceptable for him to do so with another man.

Another person travelled to Crete and was assumed a prostitute because she drank wine at a party. It is not considered ladylike to drink alcohol, she said.

Dubic said she was pleased with the amount of interest shown by the faculty members.

### Last second sign-up



Participants in Employees for Excellence conference register for the three-day-long conference held at Doon campus June 5-7. (Photo by Patti Harding)



# CONESTOGA LIFE

## Get 'em while they're hot



Conestoga's athletic supervisor, Duane Shadd, barbecues hamburgers and hot dogs for a staff get together after the Employees for Excellence in Education Conference. The conference wrapped up June 7.

(Photo by Mark Waddell)

## Staff learns to listen

By José Compta

With an attendance of 18 college teachers and administrators, Ross Cromwell, teacher in the access and preparatory studies program at Conestoga, gave a transactional analysis workshop at Doon campus on June 6.

The workshop dealt with the way people gain emotional and intellectual insight. Cromwell said transactional analysis is understanding when two people communicate. When we are listening to another person, we don't pay as much attention to what is said as we do to how it is said, noted Cromwell.

Bill Anderson, a teacher in the construction engineering technology program, said he felt good about the workshop, and found it very valuable. He said the subject of the workshop is something different and he likes to see this kind of education integrated into the technical curriculum. "I always thought the engineering field curriculum was weak in psychological study areas," he said.

"Social awareness will help teachers in engineering training," said Anderson, "and will make better engineers." He said he has been using similar techniques in his

teaching for some time.

Mike Harttrup, a teacher at the Stratford campus, said the workshop was informative and refreshing. He said it has value not only in the work environment but also in any social interaction. "It is not encouraging judgment, but encouraging thoughts, especially at times when you want to understand other people," Harttrup said. Cromwell said the purpose of the workshop is "to give a different vehicle to use for communicating."

"I use this material in my classes to give people a common vocabulary," said Cromwell. "It is a technique which is absorbable and everybody can use in their day-to-day life."

Eric Berne, a medical doctor specializing in psychiatry, was the developer of the transactional analysis theories.

"Dr. Berne's theories evolved as he observed behavioral changes occurring in a patient when a new stimulus, such as a word, gesture, or sound, entered his focus," said Cromwell.

Anne Earl, library technician at Doon campus, said the workshop helped her understand attitudes and why people might respond in different ways at different times.

## It's in the squiggle

By Nancy Usjak

Are you creative, or are you a workaholic? Are you passionate, or are you uncaring? Are you a quick thinker, or are you calm, cool and collected?

Graphology, or handwriting analysis, can answer these questions by analyzing the squiggles from the stroke of a pen.

Bo Renneckendorf, a school of business teacher who facilitated the handwriting analysis workshop June 5 for the Employees for Excellence in Education Conference, said unlocking the secrets of a person's inner self through graphology depends on a variety of observations, including the pressure and pastocity of the handwriting.

He said pressure — how hard the writer presses the pen onto the paper — can be determined by turning the paper over and running a hand over it to determine how bumpy the paper is. The pressure of the handwriting reveals the range of feelings the writer possesses.

Moderate pressure reveals a normal depth of emotion while intense pressure reveals strong, deep feelings. Light pressure indicates the writer possesses shallow feelings.

Pastocity, which refers to the width of the letters, is also linked with passion, said Renneckendorf. He said thick letters reveal a lot of emotional content, while thin letters reveal a lack of emotion.

The slant of handwriting also reveals insights into the writer's personality, he said. People who write in a vertical slant between 90 and 70 degrees are reserved and cool while people who write at a 60 to 50 degree slant are highly responsive and react quickly to a situation. People who write past a vertical slant are emotionless and objective.

Renneckendorf said the base line of a person's handwriting reveals the writer's outlook on life. Handwriting that slopes upward reveals the writer's optimism. A straight base line indicates stability of emotions while a wandering base line indicates instability.

Handwriting that slopes downward reveals the writer's pessimism and fatalistic outlook. Renneckendorf said the size of a person's handwriting reveals creativity.



Conestoga College employee Susan Takacs writes herself a letter to analyse, at the Employees for Excellence in Education Conference handwriting analysis workshop held June 5. Some think handwriting could be key to personality.

(Photo by Nancy Usjak)

Handwriting  
analysis  
spells  
the whole  
thing out.

## You are your pen

By Nancy Usjak

Handwriting is really brain writing that unlocks clues to the writer's personality, says handwriting analyst Bo Renneckendorf.

Renneckendorf, a school of business teacher who facilitated the Employees for Excellence in Education Conference handwriting analysis workshop, told a group of about 23 employees that handwriting reveals the emotional, social and psychological aspects of the writer's inner self.

"Clinical psychologists say writing is a direct reflection of the mind and the personality," he said. "And personality is from the brain."

He said handwriting analysis, or graphology, is almost like a lie detector test. "In handwriting analysis, you see a public side and private side to the writer." Renneckendorf displayed a messy-looking handwritten letter

for the employees to analyse. The employees said the letter had negative "vibes" due to its huge letters and long, eerie strokes. Renneckendorf then revealed the author was Jack the Ripper.

He said the letter's dagger-like downstrokes and passionate, heavy lettering reveal the writer's dark and brutish personality.

Renneckendorf said it was not until the times of classical Greece and Rome that people started to connect handwriting with personality.

Graphology was organized in France in 1622.

Renneckendorf, who said he prints because his handwriting is illegible, said there are two schools of graphology. The Gestalt school examines the overall look of the handwriting while the Trait school examines individual handwriting traits. He said the Gestalt school looks at the public side of the writer whereas the Trait school looks at the private side. "Between the two schools, you can find out different things."

Renneckendorf said a common etiquette must be followed in graphology: the graphologist must allow the writer to write with his or her favorite pen.

"Use different samples from different dates," he said. Several samples are needed for an accurate analysis because people naturally go through mood swings and crises that change graphology results, he said.



# CONESTOGA LIFE

Lifestyles Editor: Don Ross 748-5366

## Looking to the future... Conestoga teacher surfs the Internet

By Mark Waddell

Conestoga College marketing instructor Steve Finlay is speeding down the information superhighway by discovering the world of Internet.

Finlay is spending his summer making sure his marketing courses for the 1995-96 school year are in place, as well as dabbling with Internet.

"I first got involved with the information superhighway by using E-mail," said Finlay.

Finlay is teaching the basics of the Internet program for the Employees For Excellence in Education Conference on June 5, in room 2A05.

Internet is a program that links computer users from all over the world for research purposes. It provides exposure to about 10 million people, according to Finlay.

**"I think this (Internet) has already become a major marketing tool"**

— Steve Finlay  
Marketing Instructor

Finlay said he was introduced to Internet at Conestoga when a colleague introduced him to a marketing simulation game. "Since then I've been playing it all the time."

Finlay said his family has World Wide Web — the latest program offered on internet — on their home computer. He said the program recalls information faster than the Gopher system, which is the program the Conestoga learning resource centre offers.

He said a friend of his who works for Centex corporation in

Guelph — one of the leading companies that use Internet — said there is a greater ratio of people who buy Internet for video games as opposed to research.

**"Conestoga should be a source of information, just like the universities."**

— Steve Finlay  
Marketing Instructor

He said about 80 per cent of people who get access to the Internet are using it for entertainment purposes.

However, Finlay said Internet will be a big part of business in the future.

"I think this (Internet) has already become a major marketing tool," said Finlay.

Internet started out in universities as a method of gathering information for research until the government got a hold of it, he said.

Gopher, he said, is a program that helps people find information about almost any topic quickly and efficiently.

The user types a research topic into the computer and the computer zeros in on the information the person needs.

He said Internet can help marketing students with a program featuring storefront pictures. The program shows students a product, its dimensions, and what it is made of.

He said marketing students could complete major projects by using Internet.

"Conestoga should be a source of information, just like the universities," he said. "We have the equipment, we might as well use it."



Dave Jackson teaches 25 Conestoga College faculty members the ins and outs of the Pegasus E-mail program June 6 at Doon Campus.  
(Photo by Don Ross)

## E-mail links Conestoga departments

By Don Ross

Twenty-five Conestoga College faculty members logged on at computer program analyst Dave Jackson's workshop seminar on broadcasting and receiving messages through electronic mail, May 6 at Doon campus.

Those in attendance enjoyed the three-hour workshop which allowed them to build address books and distribution lists, browse through mail messages and search various networks.

The seminar was conducted to instruct people on how to set up user lists for other departments in the college, as well as to make extended address lists, said Jackson, lists that will make it possible to broadcast messages to up to 100 people at a time.

During the seminar, Jackson said, those in attendance would learn the latest enhancements, options and revisions to the Pegasus electronic mail (E-mail) program.

"It's taken two or three years to have enough computers up to speed to make this program available to as many people as we can now at Conestoga," he said.

With revisions such as user lists, address books and distribution lists made available to the operator of the program at the touch of a single key, the program is much easier to interface, Jackson said. "It is more user-friendly now."

Jackson said the seminar generated a lot of interest, and although many more wanted to attend, they were unable to do so because of limited available space.

"I think anyone who has E-mail available to them should learn it," said Jackson. "Once someone in your department is conversant in the program he can train someone in one hour."

With the many options in the program it is possible to: carbon copy other users' messages and send them; direct the recipient of the message to reply to someone

other than yourself; encrypt messages so only the sender and recipient can read the message or replies (this is done by way of typing in a password known only to the sender and recipient); give special markings to urgent messages that will be placed at the top of the recipients mail pile.

"These options, and others, have reduced exercises which were once a two- or three-step process into a one-step process," Jackson said.

As an example, he said, messages can be forwarded to another user by pressing one of the F keys. The user can add to it before it is sent, through a simple process.

"We're not yet at the stage where this will be available to everyone at the college, but we are a lot farther ahead than a couple of years ago," Jackson said.

Some faculty members in attendance were from Waterloo campus because the program is unavailable to them there.

## Pub Staff REQUIRED

The Doon Student Association requires pub staff for on-campus licenced events. Various positions include: bartenders, security, door persons, and floor walkers. Pub staff will be paid on an hourly basis; hours vary depending on pub schedule. Individuals will be trained on the SMART Serve Program.

Applications available at the DSA Office located in the Main Cafe.

Application Deadline JUNE 30, 1995

## Used Book Sale

Do you have text books to sell?  
The DSA will sell your books for you at the  
DSA USED BOOK SALE.

AUGUST 28- 31  
10 am - 2 pm daily  
Student Lounge

Books to be sold may be  
dropped off at the  
DSA Office no later than  
August 24



## CONESTOGA LIFE

# College groundskeeper expert in gardening



Peter Higgins describes the different types of flowers in Conestoga's gardens. (Photo by Patti Harding)

By Patti Harding

Groundskeeper Peter Higgins displayed his expertise and love for gardening at his The Garden in June workshop at the Employees for Excellence in Education Conference on June 6.

Higgins, who looks after many of the gardens at Conestoga College, taught people how to prune trees and bushes properly and how to deal with grubs. He also told the participants how he cares for the gardens at the school.

"Most beds around the college are informal," he said. "To make formal beds it takes a lot more time and dedication. There are a lot of beds around here and not a lot of us looking after them," he said.

Informal beds are flower beds full of many different easy-to-care-for flowers. Informal beds work for him at home and at the college, he said. Higgins keeps the edges of the beds curved so that a lawn mower can go around them easily.

There is a lot of thinking that goes into choosing flowers, Higgins said. He said he is trying to find flowers for the college that are early bloomers for the spring and late bloomers for the fall. He wants these "because everyone is here in September and no one is here in July and August."

Higgins said contrary to many people's beliefs, the flower season does not have to start on May 24 and end at the beginning of September. Around the college, the witch hazel has been blooming since March 13 and flowers have been blooming since March 23, he said.

"You can have flowers starting in March and can go all the way to September," Higgins said. "You can extend your season as long as you want, as long as you don't expect to see flowers all the time."

Higgins fielded questions concerning the participants' home gardens and tried to pass his knowledge on to them.

Higgins informed the group that

when you have plants inside for the winter and bring them outside for the summer, ruins their growing season. "If you put them outside their leaves can get sunburned, they fall off and the plants have no idea what season it is. It is very bad to keep a plant inside and then put it outside," he said.

After the session, Higgins took the group on a tour of the Conestoga College gardens and pointed out some interesting facts. The pond, which used to be a gravel pit, has small mouthed bass in it. It used to have goldfish, Higgins said, but they were thought to be stirring up the bottom and were killed off.

Higgins has many ideas for the grounds of Conestoga College. He said he wants to put wildflowers and maybe some roses around the new business building and he would like to put some water flowers around the pond. Higgins said he would also like to put a fountain in the middle of the pond.

## Picnic lunch



Novack Contracting workers take a break from the heat by eating their lunch in the shade. (Photo by Don Ross)

## Groundskeeping cleans up Doon

By Nicole Bardeau

The grass is a lush green, the wildflowers are blooming and the garbage is scattered over the forest floor. This is the spring scene at Doon campus.

"Everything is dirty this time of year," said Peter Higgins, head groundskeeper at Doon campus.

He said, "In the spring, all the garbage is uncovered that has blown in over the winter."

Higgins said although he has men from his crews picking up trash from the surrounding wooded areas on campus on a regular basis, bits and pieces of debris are constantly flying in from the highway or being carried in by animals.

"We had a garbage can at the intersection of the main wooded path," said Higgins, "but the darn squirrels and crows kept pulling stuff out and throwing it all over

the place."

According to Higgins, skunks can be an especially troublesome pest when it comes to keeping the trash in the trash cans.

Higgins said, "They just love to rear into those takeout containers people throw in there."

As far as trash pickup goes, Hig-

**"If you keep the grounds nice then people respect it more"**

— Peter Higgins  
Groundskeeping staff

gins said the process is basically "get it as you go."

"We have a fertilizer bag on the back of the Lawnboy," he said. "When I'm cutting along the edges of the woods, I stoop down and pick up whatever I see and toss it in the bag."

Higgins said he once had two guys go into the woods to pick up

all the trash but it took them an entire week and it returned with the next good windstorm.

The DSA used to have an Environmental Awareness Week during the first week of May, said Higgins.

"They would rig spikes to the ends of broken hockey sticks to pick up the garbage. But the last couple of years, they've only had about three people turn out to help," he said.

Higgins thought if the association were to hold the event before the winter semester let out, more people might volunteer their time.

"If you keep the grounds nice then people respect it more," he said. Higgins said it's pretty hard to keep it clean this summer with all the construction going on.

"You want to see a mess?" he said. "Just go down to the lake and see all the insulation and stuff that is lying around."

# Beautifying Doon an ongoing process, says president

By Nicole Bardeau

When John Tibbits, President of Conestoga College, first arrived at Doon campus eight years ago and saw a vast amount of green space, he thought "potential."

But Tibbits was thinking of the potential the area had for trees and flowers, not sidewalks and buildings.

"I think the aesthetics of a campus can have a great deal to do with people's perspective of the school," he said.

Although the school's reputation for academic excellence is something to be proud of, Tibbits said a campus with a lot of greenery creates a more welcoming environment.

Doon is currently on a 10-year tree planting plan, said head groundskeeper Peter Higgins.

The school will plant about 100

trees every spring and another 100 every fall, for the next 10 years.

Higgins said, "This spring we planted 100 evergreen and 29 deciduous trees along the boulevard off Homer Watson."

**"I think the aesthetics of a campus can have a great deal to do with people's perspective of the school"**

— John Tibbits  
President of Conestoga College

He said the trees will produce three types of flowers which will bloom at different times and maintain some color most of the year.

"I've planted two different types of lilacs, some blue spruce and a couple of other varieties," said Higgins.

According to Tibbits, approximately 3,000 trees will have been planted by the end of the 10 years,

and will beautify the campus at a more than reasonable cost.

"We have a great deal from Sheridan Nurseries," said Tibbits. "We couldn't get a better price from any other place."

Sheridan Nurseries donated at least 150 trees (\$5,000 worth) to the school two years ago for Conestoga's 25th anniversary, said Higgins.

Tibbits said he would like to see the students, staff and local community become formally involved in the landscaping.

People have already bought trees in honor of a retirement or in memorial, said Tibbits, and the alumni association has also promised involvement.

According to Tibbits, Gord Lipki donated a tree upon his retirement.

"We could plant a lot more trees if graduating students or their parents bought a tree at convocation

for \$5 or \$10 each," he said.

Tibbits said a tree fund is also in the works.

Besides beautification, Doon would be contributing to the environment, said Tibbits.

**"I would eventually like to see a wall of trees between the campus and the highway."**

— John Tibbits  
President of Conestoga College

"The trees would help cut down the fumes and dirt blown in from the 401," he said.

"I would eventually like to see a wall of trees between the campus and the highway," said Tibbits.

Visible signs of the plan are already present. Along side the driving shed by parking lot 10, there is a tightly planted batch of evergreen and deciduous, which will eventu-

ally grow together with the rest of the wooded area.

"We'll encourage some wildflowers in the new areas when the trees are old enough," said Higgins.

Tibbits said a plan is in the works to dedicate an evergreen to each of the past chairs of the Conestoga board of governors.

This fall, all of the 100 trees will be planted around the new business wing, said Tibbits.

The support staff union will be arranging water lilies in the pond.

Tibbits said continuing the pattern with other flowers up the lawn to an arbor which will be erected at the end of the D-wing.

"Peter has done a fabulous job," said Tibbits. "We are very lucky to have him overseeing the project."

Tibbits said many people have commented on the beauty of Doon campus.



# Perseverance pays for student entrepreneurs

By Kelly Spencer

When Conestoga College business students Ravi Bishun and Rahim Parpia fired up their small business venture last April, they had no idea it would be so difficult and rewarding.

"You learn the big things in school, but you never get to apply them," said Bishun. "But when you go ahead and do a real business, that's when you learn all of the little things — which are just as important."

Both have dabbled in small sales for the last two years, but it was the launching of Textagain which brought the realities of the business world into true perspective for them.

"This is important to us," said Bishun. "It's a lot of labor and a lot of discussion time, but it's also very exciting. We wouldn't be doing all of this work if we didn't enjoy it."

Textagain buys and sells new and used books, tax-free, on a consignment basis.

"I was thinking as to why we (students) have to pay so much for books, when you know some of these books can be reused," said Bishun. "Why pay full price when you can get them for about half-price?"

Bishun said the response from

students has been very good so far, but they expect business to boom once students receive their book-lists in September.

"There are calls every day, and all of our customers are satisfied customers," said Parpia.

One of the most labor-intensive components of the business is promotion and advertising, said Parpia. Aside from ads placed in Spoke and the Pennysaver, much of their advertising has come from flyers posted throughout Doon and Waterloo campuses.

"We spent one of the long weekends here and at Waterloo (campus), stuffing flyers into every single locker. It was a lot of work, that's for sure," said Bishun.

"We put a lot of hours into the business," said Bishun. "We'll never get out of it the amount of time we put in, but it's all of the experience we're really looking for."

In an attempt to reach the night school audience, they also placed flyers on car windshields in parking lots at Doon campus. This, said Bishun, was when they ran into one of their first hurdles.

Security notified physical resources. In turn, physical resources "screamed" at Bishun and Parpia for the flyers around campus, claiming it went against college



Rahim Parpia (left) and Ravi Bishun of Textagain, a service for students which buys and sells new and used text books on consignment. (Photo by Kelly Spencer)

policy, Bishun said.

"We expected problems from the school," said Bishun. "But we have been treated pretty roughly. I think the school is a bit hypocritical. They teach you one thing, and they're trying to stop you in the same breath."

Parpia said there are other students in his classes striving to achieve success with small businesses. For a school which prides itself on its business programs,

there should be a student business support system implemented to make business ventures easier for students, said Parpia.

"This hasn't stopped us," said Bishun. "If anything, it has made us even more determined."

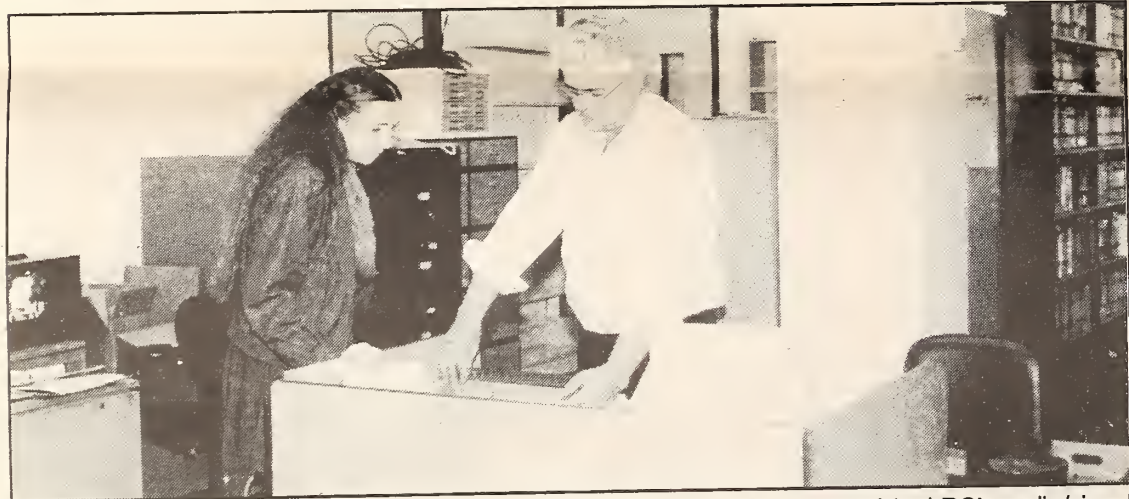
And determination, according to the entrepreneurs, is what it takes to make it in the business world today.

"Our ultimate goal is to be corporate kings," said Parpia. "When we drive past a highrise, we see our-

selves one day sitting in there at the top of the chain," adds Bishun.

The key to success in this day and age, said Parpia, is a "go get 'em attitude."

"Being aggressive and persistent is the only way to get hired," said Bishun. "You have to get yourself noticed. If you don't do anything, you don't get anywhere. If you don't do anything, nothing is going to happen," said Bishun. "It's that simple."



Paul Mailloux, technician with the LRC, and Gail Carruthers, who is in charge of the LRC's audio/visual department, check out the new surroundings. (Photo by Mark Waddell)

## Better atmosphere promised for new LRC

By Steve Tuckwood

Renovations to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC), currently under way, include more space allotted for single person study, and a greater emphasis on the audio/visual (A-V) library. Cathy Potvin, coordinator of the centre, said when the LRC re-opens near the end of the summer, those people who have used it before will be amazed at the changes. She said everything seems to be going as scheduled and she sees no reason why the renovations should not be completed by the middle of August.

Cosmetic changes to the centre include the movement of the A-V materials to the opposite side of the room. Instead of the materials being kept in a self-contained room, they will now be separated from the centre by a distribution desk. Potvin said, the A-V viewing area will be relocated and expanded to four rooms in which small groups of people can view materials. She said the video library in the centre was a

priority to stay operational throughout the renovations.

Unfortunately, the 16 mm projector film will not be accessible to borrowers for a few more weeks, she said.

A work area capable of accommodating about 100 students will be located beside the periodicals section.

Potvin said the periodicals are part of the many boxed materials right now, but will be returning to their previous area when the renovations are complete.

Problems associated with the construction are the noise and dust that is accumulating in the centre. "At times the noise can be a little much," said Potvin.

"But that's the price you have to pay if you want renovations, and we're excited about how things are turning out. The construction workers have a job to do too, so I guess the noise is bearable."

Potvin said she is looking forward to the centre being fully operational in the fall. She said the centre will

be able to supply the students with greater service in a much better atmosphere.

Potvin said the staff of the centre has a great deal of work to do before the beginning of the fall term, but everything will be worthwhile when the centre opens again for full operation.

Currently, a great deal of written materials remain boxed in a room just off the centre, waiting to be organized and placed back on shelves by Potvin and her crew when the time comes.

Potvin said although the centre will not have a great deal more material than it did before, the organization of the material will be better and will help the students use the resources more effectively.

Potvin said the construction experience has certainly changed the normal summer tasks in the LRC. "It's just a different sort of workload, sometimes busier and other times not as busy. But once we are ready to move everything into place then we will be very busy again."

## Experienced traveller shares colorful tales

By Patti Harding

Experienced traveller Jean Weller showed off her wares at the African Safari noon session at the Employees for Excellence in Education Conference on June 6.

Weller, whose first love is travelling, has visited Asia numerous times, China three times, which included north, south, east and west China, and she has been to Africa twice.

Weller, a freelance photographer, helps her husband, who works at the University of Waterloo, lead tours.

Weller's session included showing slides of her first and second trip to Africa. The first time she visited Africa, she went to Kenya. It was a luxury trip, she said of her two-week trip, as she described the type of living quarters the group stayed in. The second trip was not so exclusive. Weller and the tour group camped everywhere they went in Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia.

While in Kenya, Weller and the group met a witch doctor and the circumcisor from the Kikuyu tribe, saw many different types of birds and animals and met many different people.

Weller recounted a time when she was talking to a six-foot-tall Masai warrior. All the warriors of this tribe wear red cloaks with nothing underneath them, she said. The Masai think that the white man are very confining because they don't let the bad smells waft away.

While at the Masai Mara animal reserve, she saw many different

types of animals including one of her favorites, the cheetah.

"We could watch them sleeping and grooming. We were so close we could hear them breathe," Weller said of her encounters with lions and cheetahs.

Not a year after Weller and her husband were back from Kenya, they went back to Africa to visit Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia. On this trip, the group got a little closer to nature, camping in tents everywhere they went.

On this trip, which was a month long, Weller and her husband led another group to visit some natural African phenomena, sand dunes and some rare game reserves.

"You have to be very careful where you put your hands," Weller said as she talked about climbing on the rocks. "There are a lot of snakes."

She recounted a story about a couple of black-backed jackals. "They will eat anything, even shoes," she said, as she told of a time when it was her and her husband's turn to guard the truck. There were two jackals fighting over a machete, she said. One had it in his mouth and the other was chasing after him to get it.

Weller is planning a trip to India in November. She wants to see the camel trekking in the dunes and also be there for the annual camel fair that's held every November.

"There are festivities, celebrations and camels trading," she said. She hopes to extend the trip to do a little trekking in Nepal, but doesn't know whether that will be possible yet.



## Sports and Leisure



Tennis instructor Dwayne Dawson serves up lessons at the Kenneth E. Hunter recreation centre's first tennis clinic of the season June 8.

(Photo by Mark Waddell)

## Tennis good for health, friendship

By Mark Waddell

Dwayne Dawson, Conestoga's newly hired master of the hard court, who teaches tennis Tuesday and Thursday nights, has played and had success at tournaments throughout Ontario.

Dawson won the Gelba-Bifedo club tennis tournament in Toronto and finished as an A Division runner-up at the Northfield-Waterloo Tennis Club championships held in April.

A Division play is an advanced level for tennis, B Division is intermediate, and C Division is novice.

"I have played on occasion in tournaments for the past five or six years," said Dawson, who has taught the game for about three years.

Dawson took up tennis with a friend at Mohawk College in Hamilton as a leisurely hobby. "We just

basically beat the ball around."

He learned the game after he took lessons at Mohawk and the Northfield-Doon tennis club.

He also learned the game through instructional tennis videos that taught drills for teaching.

After Dawson's skills improved, he taught tennis at Kitchener parks and recreation. His doubles partner told him about the job.

Then his mixed doubles partner told him about the job teaching tennis at Conestoga's recreation centre.

Dawson plays singles, doubles and mixed doubles. He said it is important that tennis players learn how to play singles and doubles.

He said singles tennis strengthens a person's fitness level, while doubles tennis helps with strategy. "Good players can play both," Dawson said.

He said his goal when he instructs

tennis lessons at Conestoga is to teach players the fundamentals of ground strokes — forehand and backhand — as well as footwork.

He said combining ground strokes and foot work helps ready players for a game situation. As the lessons progress, Dawson looks at tennis strategies.

"It's nice to meet new friends," said Liama Narbutas, an accountant who attended the first night of lessons from Dawson.

She said she was transferred from her job in Montreal, where she also took tennis lessons. She said she learned a lot from the first tennis lesson from Dawson.

Nancy Coneyheare, a chemical technician, agreed with Narbutas that Dawson was a good teacher. "Dwayne has a lot of patience."

Coneyheare said she enjoyed taking tennis lessons because it was a good way to meet people.

## 480 kilometres of Arctic thrill — 'the ultimate in canoeing'

By Nicole Bardeau

Ice floes, unsurpassable rapids, 24-kilometre portages and an adventurer's 177-year-old journal. These were the challenges of an Arctic voyage which Ted Goddard and three friends wouldn't have passed up in a second.

Goddard, a business teacher at Conestoga, entertained an audience of about 15 fellow employees at Doon, during a slide presentation May 30, of his canoeing trips in the Arctic.

Goddard's seminar was part of the three-day Education for Excellence workshop at Conestoga May 29-31.

On June 21, 1976, a group of adventures set out to retrace the original voyage of Sir John Franklin, whose 1818 journey ascended from Yellowknife to Coppermine in search of the Northwest Passage, and to find Franklin's long-lost cache.

The entire trip took seven weeks and covered 1,000 kilometres.

"For some of us, we would consider Arctic canoeing, the ultimate in canoeing," said Goddard.

"It's the 300 miles up-river that's the challenge" said Goddard, "and for those purists who

do an awful lot of canoeing, they'd have been aghast at how we treated our canoes."

During his presentation, Goddard told the audience of his group's encounters with numerous species of wildlife, native peoples and Mother Nature at her best and worst.

"Eagles, falcons, rough-legged hawks and golden eagles as well, were all really common," said Goddard. Once, during their 1979 trip up the Hood River, the group discovered a wolf den which housed a pack of nine.

"It was really tough slugging," he said. "I remember one particular day we were on the river 17 hours and we made 7 1/2 miles."

Every now and then, the gods smiled upon you," he said. Goddard showed how the group used their spray covers as sails, and relaxed for 40 kilometres.

Although the group did have a good supply of food with them, most of it was freeze-dried. Since the fish were large and plentiful, they quite often ate fresh fish for dinner.

"We had no net, and using 10-pound-test line, it was a challenge bringing in some of the fish," he said.



From left: Jack Burgess, Ted Goddard, Fred Gaskin and Rob Caldwell set up their Arctic camp under the 24-hour daylight. The determined group set out for this trip June 21, 1976 from Yellowknife, N.W.T. and reached their Coppermine destination Aug. 10.

(Photo by Nicole Bardeau)

"Jack would use his 'fish-net underwear' and I suspect the fish took one look at it and said he'd rather be in the canoe!"

Goddard's group made the trip to Coppermine without finding the cache of Sir John Franklin, but most of them returned in 1979 to do the 720-kilometre trek up the

Hood River, and twice more in 1982 and 1985.

On the Hood River trip Goddard's group was accompanied by CTV and they found Franklin's campsite, but the cache was not found until later by a different group.

Goddard said he hasn't returned

to the Arctic since 1985, but it isn't because he is getting too old. A flight up to the Arctic is very expensive he said.

"If you miss your scheduled pick-up time (at the end of the trip), and the plane has to come back to get you in a couple of days, it's another \$5,000," he said.



Duane Shadd explains speedwalking.

(Photo by Nancy Usjak)

## Feeling fit

### Workshop teaches wellness more important than losing a few pounds

By Nancy Usjak

Duane Shadd told about 15 sneaker-clad Conestoga employees at the Employees for Excellence in Education Conference fitness workshop June 6 that the wellness perspective of physical fitness is more important than shedding extra pounds.

Shadd, who facilitated the workshop for the first time at the Doon campus recreation centre, said he's concerned with presenting a health-oriented view on fit-

ness. He said the best way to achieve physical fitness is through the FITT formula — frequency, intensity, time and type.

Shadd told the employees people should exercise at a frequency of once every other day instead of the popular '70s notion of only three times a week.

The intensity and time, Shadd said, involves exercising within 65 to 85 per cent of a person's target heart rate for at least 30 minutes.

He said the best method of

determining target heart rate is to subtract your age from 180. "You have the best computer heart rate system here," he said, as he put two fingers on his wrist.

The type of exercise should be an aerobic workout, he said.

"This is any activity that transports your body over a distance, from point A to point B," he said.

Some aerobic activities are biking and speed walking, a popular fitness craze, he said.

Having fun with fitness is

more important than spot reduction — the attempt to shed pounds on a certain part of the body. "There is no such thing as spot reduction — it's a fallacy," he said.

Shadd said he has two rules about physical fitness: if it makes sense, do it, and if it makes you happy, do it. "If it makes sense, buy into it (physical fitness)," he said.

"Your body was designed to move," he said. "Sitting puts a cast on your lifestyle."

Shadd told the employees that the '80s TV show, The 20 Minute Workout, was a poor exercise routine. The show presented warm-ups and cool-downs that were too short, and the target heart rate was achieved for too short a period of time to be aerobically beneficial.

He said speed walking is a good activity because it puts less stress on the joints.

In a lesson on speed walking, Shadd told the employees to walk towards him in anger with "attitude" in their hips.



# Entertainment

Entertainment Editor: Mark Waddell 748-5366

## Photo finish



General education instructor John Zachariah photocopies handouts for his last class of the term. (Photo by Anna Done)

## Albert Finney takes a walk on Dublin's 'Wilde' side

By Anna C. Done

Be forewarned — Alfred Byrne, as portrayed by Albert Finney, will tug at your heartstrings and play them like a fiddle. With a sparkle in his eye, an Oscar Wilde quote for every occasion, and the gift of gab that could only have been acquired by kissing the Blarney Stone, bus conductor Alfred is *A Man of No Importance*.

Set in Dublin in the 60s, this film looks at the life of a man who sees the world through an artist's eyes and brings a splash of color into the grey lives of those around him.

Finney gives an outstanding performance as the man who is just a little too good for the often cold and judgmental world he lives in.

Alfred channels his love for the aesthetic by entertaining his passengers on the 24A bus with passages from fellow Irishman Oscar Wilde.

Despite less than successful ventures into the theatre with annual amateur productions staged at the

### movie review



#### A Man of No Importance Starring Albert Finney

parish hall, when smitten by a beautiful new commuter, Alfred decides to stage Wilde's exotic tale of Salome, the dancing enchantress who had John the Baptist beheaded.

Tara Fitzgerald adroitly plays Adele Rice, a country girl led astray who finds herself in the big city and in the middle of Alfred's whirls of fancy.

Trouble comes for Alfred in the form of his sister, with whom he lives, who mistakes Alfred's dreams of beautiful things for physical desire, and so sets about trying to set up her brother with Miss Rice.

It soon becomes apparent that poor, misunderstood Alfred, while certainly appreciating the delicate beauty of Miss Rice, only has eyes for his handsome co-worker, bus driver Bobby, charmingly played by Rufus Sewell.

The cruel response from the com-

munity when his secret is discovered is a scathing testimony to how far we still have left to evolve as human beings and conversely a shining example of the capacity that some people have to forgive.

Despite this element, the film never dissolves into a preachy or moralistic tale, and remains funny and often droll.

Director Suri Krishnamma shows great judgement in melding the development of the plot with the development of the characters, never allowing one to overshadow the other.

Above all though, this film is a showcase for Finney's talent, which is, as usual, delightful.

*A Man of No Importance* is playing limited dates at the Princess Cinema in Waterloo throughout June, but watch for its return later in the summer.

## American Buffalo shines for six

By Leanne Moses



#### American Buffalo Director: Jennifer Epps

Like the buffalo in America, the audience was scarce at the Water Street theatre in Kitchener's King Value Centre. Although only six people turned up to take in the show, it didn't diminish the enthusiasm of the King Rudolph Players.

David Mamet's *American Buffalo* explores the relationship between the personal and the "professional" among thieves.

One of the gangsters, Teach played by Dylan Roberts, tries throughout the play to remain coolly detached while concentrating on the business at hand. "I'm not against friendship, but this is cards and cards is separate." He applies this philosophy to business as well.

Yet, the play shows sometimes the business and personal overlap — and even crooks can't elude their humanity. Although occasionally violent, *American Buffalo* is not about violence or crime.

Mike MacDonald as Donny, a worrier whose desire to succeed con-

flicts with his wish to be a decent human being, gives a credible performance. Paul Bethel as Bob, slow-witted but eager to please, is also convincing. However, the star of the performance is undoubtedly Roberts. As the fast-talking Teach, he convincingly masters the Chicago gangster accent and his quick movements impart his character's quick mind and forceful personality.

The play, directed by Jennifer Epps, was well chosen with its cast of three for the small venue. Fast-paced dialogue and well paced-action kept the audience engrossed throughout.

Entering the theatre, the audience is immediately drawn into the intimacy of the production by the amazing resale store set with its litter of junk stretching almost into the seats.

From its multifarious props including a Lucy Arnaz doll, old National Geographics, a washboard and a device used to separate pigs' feet for butchering, to the focused performances of the three actors, there is evidence of pride and craftsmanship in the production.

The King Rudolph Players were founded in 1994 by University of Waterloo drama alumni, Roger Lemke and Anand Rajaram, to give themselves the opportunity to experience all facets and demands of the theatre profession.

The company will also be performing Elmer Rice's *The Adding Machine* in July and William Shakespeare's *Cymbeline* in August.

*American Buffalo* is playing at the Water Street Theatre in Kitchener June 14-17. Performances are at 8 p.m., with a Saturday matinee at 2 p.m.

## End of a vending era



Steve Farlow of Red Carpet Foods moves a vending machine from outside the student lounge. (Photo by Anna Done)

## Mad Love: a 90-minute dive into shallows of teen angst

By Kelly Spencer

It's official. Hollywood has definitely run out of original storylines. From here on in, the Three R's will govern movie land. *Reuse* the same actors, *reduce* the mentality and dignity of cinema until patrons forget how to demand quality and *recycle* the same Simple Simon plots (if you're lucky enough to get one).

*Mad Love*, starring super-duper heart-throbs Drew Barrymore and Chris O'Donnell is yet another 90-minute voyage into the shallow depths of teen angst, true love and a rocky road-trip to Freedomville. Of course, along the way there is a little crime, a lot of sex and a suicide

tendency or two.

Barrymore is the new babe at school — a wild and crazy gal all bundled up in a honeysuckle exterior. Boy, O'Donnell in this version, meets girl (but only after gawking at her longingly through his telescope).

But will she fall madly and passionately in love with the astrology buff? Will she continue to slough him off, or will destiny bring them together? Thank goodness for the previews, or the suspense could have driven me mad!

But, of course they take refuge from the cruelties of life in each other's arms. O'Donnell from the memory of his deadbeat mom and

his demanding father, and Barrymore from overbearing parents and her struggle with clinical depression.

So, manic-depressive disorder is the key mechanism of this flick. The conflicts, resolutions and climaxes of the film are motivated by Barrymore's relentless struggle to maintain order.

Nothing is generated by the photography, the acting or, heaven forbid, the script. No, this is

Hollywood, where only the most fickle cinematic experiences are deemed money-makers.

Once the heroic O'Donnell saves his dame from the confinements of the psychiatric ward, they hit the high road to . . . wherever. How touching.

But their dreamy escapades are interrupted by Barrymore's condition. After a dramatic suicide attempt, O'Donnell surrenders his love in order to save her life, and

takes her back for treatment.

She moves back to Chicago. The final scene opens with O'Donnell, wind sweeping past him, sitting on a rock, reading a letter. The narrator assures him of her good condition, and that there will always be a place in her heart for him. Add a cliché or two which I might have missed while I battled back nausea, and you have the whole gist of it.

Oh, I almost forgot the endearing collage of memories as the credits roll.

Unless you have an insatiable appetite for mindless films, or you get a real kick out of being ripped off at the box-office, pass on this one. Chances are, you've already seen it.

### movie review



#### Mad Love Starring Drew Barrymore